



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Thursday, December 17, 2009
... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

Holiday Greetings from the Newton Conservators

Winter is definitely upon us. Check out our latest edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter. Its all about the fight against invasives in Newton. This coming year we plan to continue and deepen our commitment to these efforts. Notices of invasive removal projects will be in our newsletters and on our web site, and we hope you will join us in this work come spring. The Newton Conservators have also published an exciting new Almanac for Newton to guide you through what you might expect to see in nature month by month! Perhaps you might like to participate in the annual Newton Christmas Bird Count - details are here as well. You too can join the search for calling birds and a partidge in a pear tree. Happy Holidays and best wishes for a wonderful 2010 to all.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Members of the Newton Conservators should be receiving their latest edition of Newton Conservators Newsletter in the mail shortly. You should be aware that it is also available free as a PDF on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/dec09.pdf>.

This issue of the Newton Conservators' newsletter is all about invasives. Open space can be threatened in many ways. The primary threat for many years was from the loss of land to development. Today, with Newton's remaining open space largely in public ownership, a greater threat to the health of our open spaces is from invasives. In this issue, Pete Gilmore identifies the major invasives loose among us, Katherine Howard talks about the volunteer efforts that have already been made at removal, Jane Sender discusses our continued commitment, Alison Leary puts the fight against invasives in a global biodiversity context, and Ted Kuklinski shares war stories in the fight against knotweed. Removing invasives and giving native species room to return requires labor. The labor pays off. Next spring, look in this newsletter, in our email newsletter,

and on our web page for notices of efforts where we can all pitch in.

- *Eric Reenstierna (editor)*

Here are the articles in the current issue:

- Conservators Protect City Golf Course
- What is a Conservation Restriction?
- President's Message:
- Invasive Plants: What's the Worst in Newton
- Conservators Weed Out Invasives
- The Crucible of Biodiversity and Garlic Mustard Pulls
- Naughty Newton Knotweed
- Tree Conservancy News
- Editorial
- Holiday Gift? The Newton Almanac

Newton Conservators Almanac

Looking for that last minute holiday present? The new Newton Conservators Almanac is perfect for Newton nature lovers. Order now (by Dec 18) to insure holiday delivery!

What are you doing next year? Spend 12 months getting to know Newton's parks with the Newton Conservators Almanac. The Almanac is organized month by month with "quick to locate" seasonal color bands. Native representatives of conifers and deciduous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, butterflies and birds are some of the monthly entries you will find in this book. It contains beautiful color photographs of the flora and fauna you are likely to find in Newton. Each entry displays the common name, scientific name, and a group graphic with description and local field notes. It makes a great companion to our trail guide.

You can pre-order your copies of the Newton Conservators Almanac now (get your order in – only 500 copies of this stunning book will be available in its initial run). It would make a great holiday present. The book is \$21.95 plus \$2.50 for postage per copy. Send a check for \$24.45 per copy along with your name, address, city, state, zip and phone to Newton Conservators Almanac, PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459. Check <http://www.newtonconservators.org/almanac.htm> for more info.

Join the 110th Christmas Bird Count: Newton Citizen Science in Action

Make the Christmas Bird Count your new holiday outdoor tradition! From December 14, 2009 through January 5, 2010, bird lovers in Massachusetts as well as the rest of the United States will be participating in the nation's longest running wildlife survey,

the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Families, students, birders, and scientists armed with binoculars, bird guides, and checklists go out on an annual seasonal mission - often before dawn. For over 100 years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has enticed dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season. The data collected by bird observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, the CBC provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

There is a specific methodology to the CBC and everyone can participate. In Massachusetts, there are 33 geographic "count circles" where the bird counts occur. Each count circle is coordinated by an experienced Count Compiler. Beginning birders can join a group that includes at least one or two experienced birdwatchers in charge of covering a portion of the circle. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of a count circle, you can report the birds visiting your feeder. In either case, if you have never been on a CBC before, locate and contact the local Count Compiler to find out how you can participate. Visit the MassBird website at <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/CBC/index.htm> for information regarding local CBC Count Compilers and birding clubs in your area. A list of Frequently Asked Questions with more details and national CBC results are found on National Audubon's web page at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/FAQ.html.

This coming Sunday, Dec 20th, is the date for the Newton segment of the 2009 Boston Area Christmas Bird Count. Welcome all who are interested! Counter participants will meet at 7:30 am at the home of Cris Criscitiello at 2 Raeburn Terrace and thereafter divide into five teams, spending the morning and, if needed, an early afternoon hour covering the northeastern two-thirds of the city involved in the Greater Boston Count area. Experienced and non-experienced birders are welcome. Newcomers will be paired with an experienced group. Even if you would like to participate for only a few hours, you are welcome. The participation fee is \$5.00 which entitles you to a copy of the entire USA count, usually published in November the following year. Cris would also like to organize one or two owl counting teams, with any folks willing to start out at 5:30 am, returning to coffee and doughnuts at 7:00 am. If you are interested, please contact Cris (mgcrisci@massmed.org, 617-244-6397) and let him know if you would like to for the regular count and/or the owl count. It should be noted that the count occurs rain, shine, or snow (check with organizer in case of severe weather).

E-Bulletin Notes

We are utilizing Vertical Response (www.verticalresponse.com) which generously is providing

us with free emailing service as a non-profit. You can more easily remove yourself quite easily. If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to dolanpond@aol.com. The current edition of our paper newsletter (for those who don't receive it in the mail) can be easily downloaded in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>. Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to dolanpond@aol.com. This e-Bulletin is a service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. Membership information can be found online at our website - <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm>. You can join the organization or even renew your membership online now!

- *E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)*